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 Whome many thousands, with one breath:  
 Cry out, let him be put to death.  
 Who, indeede can neuer die:  
 So long as man hath memory.



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THE  
EXAMINATION

AND

Who

TRYALL

of Old Father

CHRISTMAS.



At the Affizes held at the  
Town of Difference, in the  
County of Discontent.

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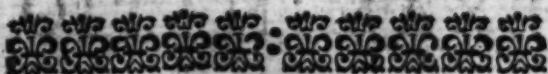
Written according to Legal proceeding,  
By *Josiah King.*

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LONDON:

Printed for *Thomas Johnson*, at the  
sign of the golden Key in  
*Pauls Church-yard.*

1658.



To the Worshipful *John Hodge*,  
Doctor of Physick at *Medbury*  
in *Devon*.

Sir :



Ardon I beseech you my presumption, in presenting you this insuing Allegory : I must confess, it is too trivial for your grave perusal, yet the reading perhaps may serve to the same end the writing did, which was only Recreation; Fancy is a Daughter of *Salomons* good Housewife; she will bee spinning before it bee light : Sir, I hope you will Candidly construe his intention, who is weak in his indeavours, though strong in his desires, and if he could he would not ; or if he would, hee could not, be otherwise than

*Your Servant in the bonds  
of affliction.*

*Josiah King.*

To



To Captain Thomas Prinne, of  
*Wembury.*

Sir :

**I**N discharge of my promise, I here tender you  
the service of an old man, let him not be ser-  
ved, like the Serving-man, turned away be-  
cause old; I hope he will not speak any thing  
that may offend a chaste ear : yet I question not,  
but there will be evil reports raised on him, and  
indeed, *Wee* were to him, if all should speak  
well of him.

I know you are ingenious, and besides  
I have been told, a lover of good Tydes :  
O let them flow! if they content do bring;  
But never ebbe, thus praises your servant

(*King.*)

To Momus, or the Critick.

Self-conceited Sir,

**I** Know thou wilt brag, thy very breath is  
enough to poyson the Muses : how many  
pots of oyntment hast thou spoyl'd, I know  
thou wilt be chopping upon my broken stile,  
but tell me, canst thou expect flowers from  
him, that never walkt in *Apollo's* garden? If

A 3

thou

thou sayest, here is something stolne, I say  
thou sayest; it is but borrowed, and that is the  
Method: The Author of the Isle of man,  
and I had it from the Assizes; now be advised  
by me, put thy ears in under thy cap; and  
shut thy black mouth, and then no body will  
know thee; thus saith

I. K.

To the honest Reader.

Friend:

**M**y intent in writing this *Allegorical*  
*Trial of Christmas*, was not to vent  
mine opinion upon the observation of the time,  
he that observes a day as hee should, may keep  
Christmas every day: only herein is expressed  
some part of those arguments which are used in  
pleading for, or against the keeping of it: It  
will be I hope no cause of controversie, there is  
too much division already, for which there is  
as much grief of heart: Pray for the peace of  
Jerusalem, let them prosper that love it.

Blessed are those that all dissention hate,  
And strive to quiet a disturbed state.

Vale.

The

# The TRYALL of Christmas.



He day appointed for the Assizes being come; the Judge and the Sherriffe with the Justices of the Peace, came to the place where they were to sit: and first I think it would not bee amisse to tell your the Names of them; the Judge was called Judge *Hate-bate*, the Sherriffs name was Sir *Leonard Love-peace*; the Justices are call'd as followeth; the first is Justice *Hate-bribe*, the second is Justice *Wise*, the third Justice *Upright*, the fourth Justice *Doe-good*, the fifth Justice *Fear-none*; these with the Judge and Sherriffe, being settled on the Bench, the Judge read his Commission; after which, the chief of the Prisoners, being one Old *Christmas*, was commanded to bee brought to the Bar; then was a Jury for Life and Death to bee impanneld, who are for the Common-wealth,

and are to give in their Verdict according to their Evidence, and as they were to be called, there stept up one Sir *Hica Busy*, and delivered a list to the Sheriff, informing him, that the Country desired those men whose names were set down, might bee the Jury to pass upon old *Christmas* at the Bar; which the Sheriffe for quietness sake, delivered to the Clerk of the Arraignment, to have them called, a company of brave Gentlemen, you shall hear them named by and by.

The Clerk having received the Paper, bid the Cryer call, as followeth.

Cler. Cryer, call Mr. *Starve-mouse*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Starve-mouse*.

Cryer, call Mr. *All-pride*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *All-pride*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Keep-all*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Keep-all*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Love-none*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Love-none*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Eat-alone*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Eat-alone*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Give-little*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Give-little*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Hoord-corn*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Hoord-corn*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Grutch-meat*.

Cr.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Grutch-meat,

Cryer, call Mr. Knit-gut.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Knit-gut.

Cryer, call Mr. Serve-time.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Serve-time.

Cryer, call Mr. Hate-good.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Hate-good.

Cryer, call Mr. Cold-kitchin.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Cold-kitchin.

Then saith the Clerk to the Cryer, count them, Starve-mouse one, All-pride two, Keep-all three, Love-none four, Eat-alone five, Give-little six, Hoord-corn seven, Grutch-meat eight, Knit-gut nine, Serve-time ten, Hate-good eleven, Cold-kitchin twelve.

Then saith the Cryer, all you bountiful Gentlemen of the Jury answer to your names, and stand together, and hear your Charge.

With that there was such a lamentable groan heard, enough to turn ice into ashes, which caused the Judge, and the rest of the Bench, to demand what the matter was; it was replied, that the grave old Gentleman Christmas, did sound at the naming of the Jury; then it was Commanded that they should give him air, and comfort him up, so that hee might plead for himself: and

here

Cr.

here I cannot passe by in silence the love that was expressed by the Country people, some shreeking and crying for the old man; others striving to hold him up, others hugging him, till they had almost broke the back of him, others running for Cordials and strong waters, insomuch that at last they had call'd back his wandring spirits, which were ready to take their last farewell.

Then said the Judge, old man, what's the matter?

*Christm.* Ah good my Lord! I have been grossly abused, and had been trodden under foot, had not these good Country people helpe me.

*Judg.* But mee thought I heard some say, it was at the naming of the Jury: If thou hast ought justly to except against them, I will hear thee.

*Christm.* I heartily thank your Honour, and this favour which your Lordship hath granted me, hath encouraged me to crave another, and that is, That you be pleased to grant mee the benefit of a Council, in regard of mine Age, and defect of memory and expression. Besides, the Jury are all strangers to mee, as well as enemies; and therefore I desire my Council may be one of

of Christmas.

II

of this County, that so he may describe the Gentlemen of the Jury.

*Judge.* Well *Christmas*, in regard that thou wert a merry old man when I was but a Boy, and did often at thy coming make me sport, I have granted thy request, choose thy Councillor.

*Christm.* I humbly thank your goodnesse my Lord.

Then the old man whispered to a Friend, to deliver a Fee to Councillor *Crab*, and desire him to deecypher the Jury, and as occasion did offer it self, to Plead his Cause.

The Fee being delivered, and accepted, the Councillor after this manner spake to the Bench.

*Counsell.* My Lord, may it please your Honour, this Jury which is now impannelled, and to pass their Verdict upon old *Christmas*, is illegally chosen, there is not one of them a Free-man, and all mortal enemies to this old Gentleman.

And first of all here is Mr. *Starve-mouse*, I wonder how hee dare shew his face in Court, the very Cats cannot abide him.

Secondly, Here is Mr. *All-pride*, I must confess he hath an estate.

But



But at his house-keeping you may admire,  
 Where silken gowns do quench the kitchen fire;  
 And of his Cup, there's none that ever laste,  
 And break their necks may, sooner than their  
 (fast.

And when at any time a feast he'l keep,  
 He in Bravado will kill half a sheep.

Here's another my Lord cald *Eat-alone*, a  
 Malefactor my Lord, and ought to be con-  
 demned by *Magna Charta*; where it is to be  
 found, that one of the Lord chief Justices  
 own Clerks being accused, was forc'd to  
 free himself, and get it recorded, that he eat  
 not his morsel alone.

To be short my Lord,  
 To eat his breakfast be a corner sought,  
 And in his pocket bath his dinner brought.

There's another of them cald *Give-  
 little*, hee may well be called give nothing,  
 yet the Fool will sometimes bragge of his  
 Charity; if he kills but an Egge, and give the  
 offall to the needy: he is, my Lord, a great  
 benefactor to the poor, but will bestow no-  
 thing upon the Beggars; and as for Master  
*Cold-kitchen*, here is his man *Sam* Servant,  
 is ready to give Oath, that hee hath almost  
 served him to death.

And

And for Mr. *Hoard-corn*, the people in general all curse him, it is he that makes the *Epha* small, and the *Shekel* great; good my Lord, let Justice be done upon him, unless he will save *Gregory* the labour, and follow the steps of his father, who the last cheap year hanged himself.

There's another of them cald Mr. *Grutch-meat*, he may be termed grutch cloaths too, for his cloathes were never young in my memory, they may be set down in the Almanack with the dear year, and the great frost: he is one that never gave Almshouses in his life, the house of his owne body he will not keep Tenantable, but it had been irrecoverably decayed; had it not been for the reparations of other mens Tables, where hee hoords up meat enough for a month; in a word, my Lord, he is a base fellow, and so I leave him.

There's another of them cald Mr. *Serve-time*, he dwells at the signe of the Weathercock; he hath a glove for every hand, he holds it most safe to do as most do, right or wrong, he'll be on the harder side.

*And when a hunting goes, I have been told,  
He with the Hare will run, and Hound will  
(bold.  
So my Lord not fit for a Juror, because he  
makes*

And

makes conscience of nothing.

*Judge.* Were there ever such a brood of Vipers as these, Mr. *Sheriffe*, how came this to pass?

*Sheriff.* Surely my Lord it was Sir *Hicoby* that gave me the List, and told mee, it was the Countries desire that these men should bee the Jury; and I was induc'd to beleeve it, in regard I know him to bee a popular man.

With this the Jury began to murmur, and told the Judge that the Councillor had abused them to please his Client, as most of his fraternity will doe; and therefore would appeal, or stand to justification.

*Counsell.* My Lord, here are some witnesses to prove the truth of what I have spoken.

*Judge.* Let them come in.

*Coun.* Cryer, call *Humility*.

O yes, *Humility*.

*Judge.* Come friend, can you testifie any thing against any of the Jury?

*Hum.* My Lord, I am convinced, that all that hath been spoken by the Worshipfull Councillor is true, but especially I can speak something more against Mr. *All-pride* than hath been yet declared: for may it please your Honour, hee hath indeavoured to mur-

der mee, and my Neighbour *Patience*: all his practice is in brave cloaths, bigge looks, swearing and swaggering, and insulting over his poore Neighbours, there was one Mr. *Good-work* lived in the house before this fellow threw him out of the doores; he spent more in Mustard every year, than this gandy Gentleman doth in Beef, hee keeps two wicked men to his Servants; the one is call'd *Stony-heart*, the other *Bribe*, and these help to keep him up in his wicked courses.

My Lord, here are many more witnesses if your Lordship please to examine them.

*Judge*. No, no, this is no *Joshua*'s day, Mr. *Sheriffe*, let another Jury be impannell'd immediately, a pack like the former, if they bee to be gotten,

*Councell*.

Before he finde their Fellows, he must rake *Tophet* throughout, and the infernal Lake.

The Jury being chosen, were called as followeth.

Mr. *Love-friend* one.

Mr. *Hate-strife* two.

Mr. *Free-man* three.

Mr. *Cloath-back* four.

Mr. *Warm-gut* five.

Mr. *Good-work* six.

Mr.

Mr. Neighbour-hood seven.

Mr. Ope-house eight.

Mr. Scorn-use nine.

Mr. Soft-hearts ten.

Mr. Merry-man eleven.

Mr. True-love twelve.

No man taking any exception against this Jury, the Clerk read the Inditement against old *Christmas*, as followeth.

*Cler.* *Christmas* hearken to thy Inditement.

*Christmas*, thou art here Indited by the name of *Christmas*, of the Town of *Superstition* in the County of *Idolatry*, and that thou hast from time to time abused the people of this Common-wealth, drawing and enticing them to Drunkenesse, Gluttony, and unlawful Gaming, Wantonnesse, Uncleanesse, Lasciviousness, Cursing, Swearing, abuse of the Creatures, some to one Vice, and some to another, all to Idleness: what sayest thou to thy Inditement, guilty, or not guilty? he answered not guilty, and so put himself to the Tryall.

After this, the Parties that can give Evidence against him are call'd.

*Counsel.*

*His innocence appears; I lay a Crown, whiter than untrod Snow, or Silver down.*

*Cler.*

of Christmas.

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Cler. Cryer call in Gregory Grutchmeat.

O yes Gregory Grutchmeat.

Indg. Come you thin belly, what can you say against the Prisoner at the barr, dost thou know him?

Greg. Know him, yes my Lord, his name is *Christmas*, a great waster & spend-thrift, he hath been all his days nothing like *Sampsons* Lyon, out of that eater came forth meat, but this old fellow devours all, and produces nothing, hee passes the great eater of *Kent*, his mind is wholly set upon his belly, for satisfaction of which, hee murders the poor innocent Creatures: My Lord, let the Records be searcht, and before the flood, we cannot find, that man ever eat any thing but fruit or hearbs, but this Cormorant is all for flesh flesh, and eats it with the blood thereof, which is the cause that he is so beastly minded, a meer *Esau*, he will sell his birthright to satisfy his belly, he is a Bastard, begotten of the horseleaches Daughter continually crying, give, give; Some people of this Nation are so besotted by this old fool, that they make a world of provision against his coming, and invite him to be Gossip to all their Pyes, and call them after his name, *Christmas-Pyes*.

My Lord, here is an honest Neighbour of mine called *Pinch-gut*, can testify as much as my self.

B

Conn-

*Councel.*

*Hear me a word my Lord, and if you please,  
Pharoahs ill-favoured Kine were fed by  
Clerk, Cryer call Pinch-gut. (these.*

*Cr. O yes, Mr. Pinch-gut.*

*Judg. Come fellow, what can you say a-  
gainst the Prisoner?*

*Pinch. I perceive my Lord the Councel-  
lor is purposed to abuse us, to please his  
Clyent, as all the fraternity will do, but I  
would have him know, that I was well  
descended, my Father was call'd *Saving*,  
and my Mothers name was *Spare*, a very  
good hous-wife; and of great repute amongst  
the Farmers.*

*Judg. Fellow, I am not come here to exa-  
mine pedigrees, were they as Authentick as  
a Welch-mans. But come let me hear what  
thou canst say in the behalf of the Common-  
wealth, against the Prisoner at the Barr.*

*Pinch-gut, My Lord, I can say that this  
Old man is an Epicure, all his delight is to  
please his Pallat, his throat is an open Se-  
pulchre, he is the Canker of the Common-  
wealth; worse than the Locust; or the *Pal-  
mer-worm*, and this is the summe of what I  
can testify.*

*Councel.*

*This is a liberall fellow t'is confest,  
He will keep all, and give away the rest.*

*Judg. What witnesses are there more?*

*Clerk.*



of Christmas.

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Clerk. call Mr. Allwork.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Allwork Allwork Allwork

Indg. Friend, whats the matter you must have so much calling, and so long coming?

Counc.

(State,

It must be so my Lord, even snails keep  
When with slow pace, their horns peep forth  
(the gate.

Allwork. I was very busy my Lord in my shop.

Indg. Can you evidence any thing against the Prisoner?

Allw. I can witnesse that he is a very idle fellow: I saw a warrant the other day under the Lord chief Justices own hand; Commanding us to work six days, and this old villain would perswade us to play twelve: he teaches also revelling and rebellion, we cannot bear any rule with our servants when he come, for if we command them to follow their work, they will murmur and deny it, saying is it not Christmas time?

Thus my Lord, and severall other wayes, he is the Author of Rebellion and sedition, in fine my Lord, he brings with him, both fire, fuel, and bellows of contention, thus being extream hasty, about my labour, I desire your honour to excuse me.

B 2

Counc.

Countess. Will it please your Honor,  
 Gatoe indurst your soul; labour of O those,  
 which will thank thee; nay, perhaps  
 sum not to am a little, but I Ghy foes.

more. Are there any more? *Meanwell.*  
 Clerk, Call Mr. Meanwell.

Tr. O yes, Mr. Meanwell.

Judge. Come fellow, what can you say?

Meanwell. My Lord, I can say that this Old  
 man is a spend-thrift, a riotous spoil-good,  
 he is the chief cause that the good Creatures  
 are abused, he is a superstitious and an Idol-  
 latrous fellow, an observer of times, he makes  
 his belly his God, a meer *Dicer*, he fares de-  
 liciously every day, but his fasting is the  
 cause of much *Eazaras* his fasting.

He provokes only to wanton fullnesse, &  
 lustfull love, he makes those that love him,  
 and his company, unfit for any good duty;  
 but on the contrary, he makes them ready  
 for all evil, as uncleannesse, scurrility, vain  
 talking, and the like, he is like the Idolatrous  
*Israelites*, they eat and drinke, no men-  
 tion of grace before meat; and rose up to  
 play, there's no mention of grace after meat,  
 just so doth he, he teaches that which the  
 people of the old World practised; only  
 eating and drinking, and such other de-  
 lights! This was he my Lord that invited  
 Iob's sons to dinner.

He overcomes men with surfeiting, and  
 Drun-

of Christsmas.

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Drunkards, &c, and makes them that they  
cannot pronounce *Shiboleth* he hath ewelpe-  
sons, all follow the steps of their Father, and  
they keep company with one *Mr. Prodigal*,  
*Mr. Wast-full*, *Belly-thear*, and *Idle*, with  
*Mr. Gamester*, and such others like them, all  
the accursed Brats of base men, here is a  
friend of mine, called *Mrs. Prudence*, she  
can inform your honour of something else.

*Councel.*

*Thy name is Mean-well friend, I know it is  
That thou art call'd, yet so thou art call'd  
Thy Father he was call'd Curious, he would  
Whither the Rain-bow had a string or no  
What wood, the man that's in the Moon  
Or whither he intend or no to marry.  
Such monsters, yet such Satyres, an amad  
Danc'd in the wilderness of his wild brays.*

*Cler.* Call *Mrs. Prudence*.

*Er.* O yes, *Mrs. Prudence*.

*Judg.* Make room for that Gentlewoman  
to come in, Come good woman, are not you  
a stranger hereabouts.

*Prud.* My Lord, wheresoever your ho-  
nour is, I desire to be your hand-maid, as for  
my residence, it is most in the University, &c  
here and there, sometimes in the Countrey, I

am found as soon in a lowly Cottage, as under a lofty Crown.

I have a Sister call'd *Wisdom*, we always travell and dwell together.

*Indg.* Jury take a speciall notice of this womans testimony, and get as much acquaintance with her & her sister as you can, Come vertuous woman, let me hear what thou canst say, in the behalt of the Commonwealth against the Prisoner.

*Prud.* My Lord, much hath been already spoken, and much more I can say, this Old man hath been one chief instrument that I & my Children have been abused. I have three Daughters, My Lord, the first is called *Patience*, the second *Temperance*, and the third *Chastity*, & one so named *Sobriety*, all these by this *Christmasses* means, are injuriously dealt withall, and violently handled; which before his coming, were in good estimation in Gentlemens houses; my daughter *Patience* is an admirable good servant, she uses to look to the Children, and servants, & would keep them in love, peace, and quiet, if at any time she were reviled, she would not revile again.

*Iosephs* words were often in her mouth, see that yee fall not out by the way: she is an excellent Labourer, and in the winter time of adversity, no Christian able to live without her, yet this naughty fellow, hath much wronged

wronged this my Daughter, and caused her to be thrown out of doors: for wheresoever he is entertain'd he carries a very base fellow called *Gamester* with him, and he hath two companions, the one called *Spendall*, and the other *Careless*; these will ride abroad night times, vizarded to glean money, to maintain their play, and make men stand, that would fain be going, and leave the stranger with a heavy heart, and light purse: This *Gamester* hath also one chief man called *Anger*, and also two *Pages*, the one called *Swearing*, the other *Cursing*, and when there is any difference about their Masters play, these two presently call in two others as good as themselves, one named *Quarrelling*, the other named *Fighting*; and these murder my daughter *Patience*.

For my second Daughter *Temperance*, she is a very abstemious maid, and uses alwaies to wait upon the Table, before this wicked wretch comes, & then she is banisht, or choaked, at the best thrown out of the doors: and then perhaps, must lye without in the street, no entertainment can get, if he be in the Town, unless it be at some honest Tradesmans house, it may be at the Ministers, if he be one of the last edition.

My third Daughter *Chastity* is as beautiful as the Sun, and she is a Chamber-maid,

and this fellow is the cause that she is abused also, for *Gluttony* hath two Associates, *Chambering & Wantonnesse*, and these kick my poor Daughter diuerse times down the staires; Thus my Lord, my Children whom I have so educated, as they are fit Companions for Princes, are by this vile Varlet abused: my Lord in few words, he is the cause that many men make their Tables and Alter to their belly, and a snare to their souls.

*Indg.* Prudence many women have done virtuously, but thou hast excelled them all.

*Prn.* Good my Lord pity me?

*Indg.* I do, and will pity thee.

*Conn.*

Good my Lord, your pitty a while hold,

One Tale is good, untill the others told. *(then)*

Hear but old Christmas what he says, and You will reserve some pitty for old men.

*Indg.* Old Christmas hold up thy head and speak for thy self, thou hast heard thy inditement, & also what all these Witnesses have evidenced against thee: what sayest thou now for thy self, that sentence of condemnation should not be pronounced against thee?

*Christm.* Good my Lord be favourable to an old man, I am above one thousand six hundred years old, & never was questioned at Sizes or Sessions before: my Lord, look on



of Christmas.

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on these white hairs, are they not a Crown of glory?

*Indg.* Yea, if they be found in a good way.

*Christm.* I hope you shall not find these in a bad way.

And first my Lord, I am wronged in being indited by a wrong name. I am corruptly called *Christmas*, my name is *Christ-tide*, or time.

And though I generally come at a set time, yet I am with him every day that knows how to use me.

My Lord, let the Records be searcht, and you shall find, that the Angels rejoyc'd at my coming; and sung *gloria in excelsis*: The Patriarcks, and Prophets; longed to see me.

The fathers have sweetly imbraced me, our modern Divines all comfortably cherish mee, O let me not be despised now I am old. Is there not an injunction in *Magna Charta*; that commands men to inquire for the old way, which is the good way: many good deeds do I do, O why do the people hate me? we are commanded to be given to Hospitality, and this hath been my practise from my youth upward: I come to put men in mind of their redemption: to have them love one the other, to impart with something here below, that they may receive more and better



ter things above : the wiseman saith , there is a time for all things , and why not for thankfulness ? I have been the cause , that at my coming Ministers have instructed the people every day in the Publick : telling the people how they should use me , and other delights , not to effeminate or corrupt the mind ; and bid them abhor those pleasures from which they should not rise bettered , and that they should by no means turn pass-time into Trade : And if that at any time they have stept an inch into excess , to punish themselves for it , and be ever after the more carefull to keep within compass.

And did also advise them , to manage their sports without Passion : They would also tell the people , that their feasts should not be much more than nature requires , and grace moderates : not pinching , nor pampering : And whereas they say that I am the cause they sit down to meat , and rise up again gracelesse , they abundantly wrong me : I have told them , that before any one should put his hand in the dish , he should look up to the owner ; and hate to put one morsell in his mouth unblest : I tell them they ought to give thanks for that which is paid for already , knowing that neither the meat , nor the mouth , nor the man , are of his own making : I bid them fill their bellies , not their eyes ;

of Christmas.

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eyes, and rise from the board, not glutted but only satisfied: and charge them to have a care, that their guts be no hinderances to their brains, or hands: and that they should not loose themselves in their feasts; but bid hem be soberly merry, and wisely free. I also advise them to get friendly thrift to be their Caterer, and Temperance to Carve at the board, and be very watchfull that Obscenity, detraction, and Icurrility, be banisht the Table: But let their discourse be as savoury as the meat: and so feed as though they did eat to live, not live to eat: and at last, rise as full of thankfulness, as of food: This hath, this is, and this shall be my continuall practise: now concerning the particulars that these folks charge me with, I cannot answer them, because I do not remember them; my memory is but weak, as old mens use to be: but me thinks they seem to be the seed of the dragon, they send forth of their mouths, whole floods of impious inventions against me, and lay to my charge things that I am not guilty of: which hath caused some of my friends to forsake me, and look upon me as a stranger: My Brother *Good-works* broke his heart, when he hear don't: my sister *Charity* was taken with the Num-Palsy, so that she cannot stretch forth an hand: O tell it not in the City, nor publish

it

in the Country: my Lord, I am but a bad Orator; therefore I humbly desire your honour; to hearken to my Councell and witnesses.

*In the mean space, I fe weep I cannot hold,  
Good works is dead, & Charitie's half cold.*

My Lord, Councillor, what can you say.  
Coun. We think my Lord, the very Clouds blush to see this old Gentleman thus egregiously abused, if at any time any have abused themselves by immoderate eating, and drinking or otherwise spoil the creatures, it is none of this old mans fault; neither ought he to suffer for it; For example the Sun and the Moon are by the heathens worshipped, are they therefore bad because idolized so many abuse this old man, they are bad for abusing him, not he bad, for being abused: These Balliards of *Amon*, have abused him, and therefore now would banish him: far be it from my Lord, to cast him a good thing, with the base use annexed thereunto. They term his charity wasting and spoiling, the making of Idlers, and encreasing of Beggars: But where too much charity hath slain her thousands, too little hath slain her ten thousands: some of these witnesses did hint at Religion, but I believe they are maidens for that, the first that wooes them may win them, they tax him of Rebellion, and sedition, but how

## of Christmas.

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how can love and peace be the Author of  
that: for that is his Motto.

As for Mrs. *Prudence*, because your ho-  
nour is pleased to give more credence to her  
testimony, than to any of the rest; I shall  
answer her in particulars: and first for her  
children, I must confesse as she said, they are  
fit Companions for Princes, but she stan-  
ders Old Father *Christmas*, to say that he  
ever wronged any of them; no, he ever had  
a good esteem of them, it was one *Anger*, a  
fiery fellow, with *Wrath* and *Rage* his sons;  
that threw her daughter *Patient* out of  
doors, and got her, and for her daughter  
*Temperance* it was *Gustony*, and unlatia-  
ble appetite, that abused her and not this old  
man.

And for her daughter *Chastity*, it was a  
scurvy scabby fellow, called *Carnal Concu-  
piscence*, that forced her, therefore I beseech  
your honour; give not any ear to these false  
reports: then said the Judge, Mr. *Sheriffe*  
give order for the apprehending of these fel-  
lows, and presently after apprehending of  
them, execute them.

*(shew ye,*  
*Then anage them to the ditch, where let*  
*So long as one man hath a memory.*

*Corn.* My Lord here are some honest men,  
desire to give in their evidence in the old  
mans behalf.

Indg.

*Judg.* Who are they, let them be called.

*Clerk.* Cryer, call *Simon Servant*.

*Cr.* O yes, *Simon Servant*.

Call *Peter Poor*.

*Cr.* *Peter Poor*.

Call *Nicholas Neighborhood*.

*Cr.* *Nich. Neighborhood*.

*Judg.* Come *Simon Servant*, what can you say in behalf of the Old man here.

*Serv.* My Lord, I live at the Town of *Bond*, in the County of little *Rest*; my Master is called Mr. *Hard-heart*, a great enemy to his old father at the barr: but for mine own part, I will speak upon my oath; that I had suffered more than an *Egyptian* bondage had it not been for him.

I had had a Sabbathlesse pursuit of my masters Labour, had it not been for him: the very beasts that groan under the burden are beholden to him for ease, for when the Ox and the Ass's neck, seem'd married to the yoke, he divorc't them, the very *Jews* had their Jubilees, times of rest, therefore good my Lord, if you give us nothing, keep not our brick and straw from us.

*Judg.* *Peter Poor*, what can you say.

*Poor.* My Lord, I dwell at the Town of *Want*, in the County of *Needs*, Poor in name, and poor in estate: and had it not been for old *Christmas* I had been poorer, if poorer

poorer I could have been ; had it not been for him , my best friend *God-free Giving*, had lost his life : all that have spoke against him, are all *Gadarens*, and of the Linage of *Naball* , ( *Mrs. Prudence* only excepted ) if you take away this merry old Gentleman from us , you take away all our Joy , and comfort that we have on earth.

*Hear us good Iudge, we for thy favour call;  
Save him alive, or else destroy us all.*

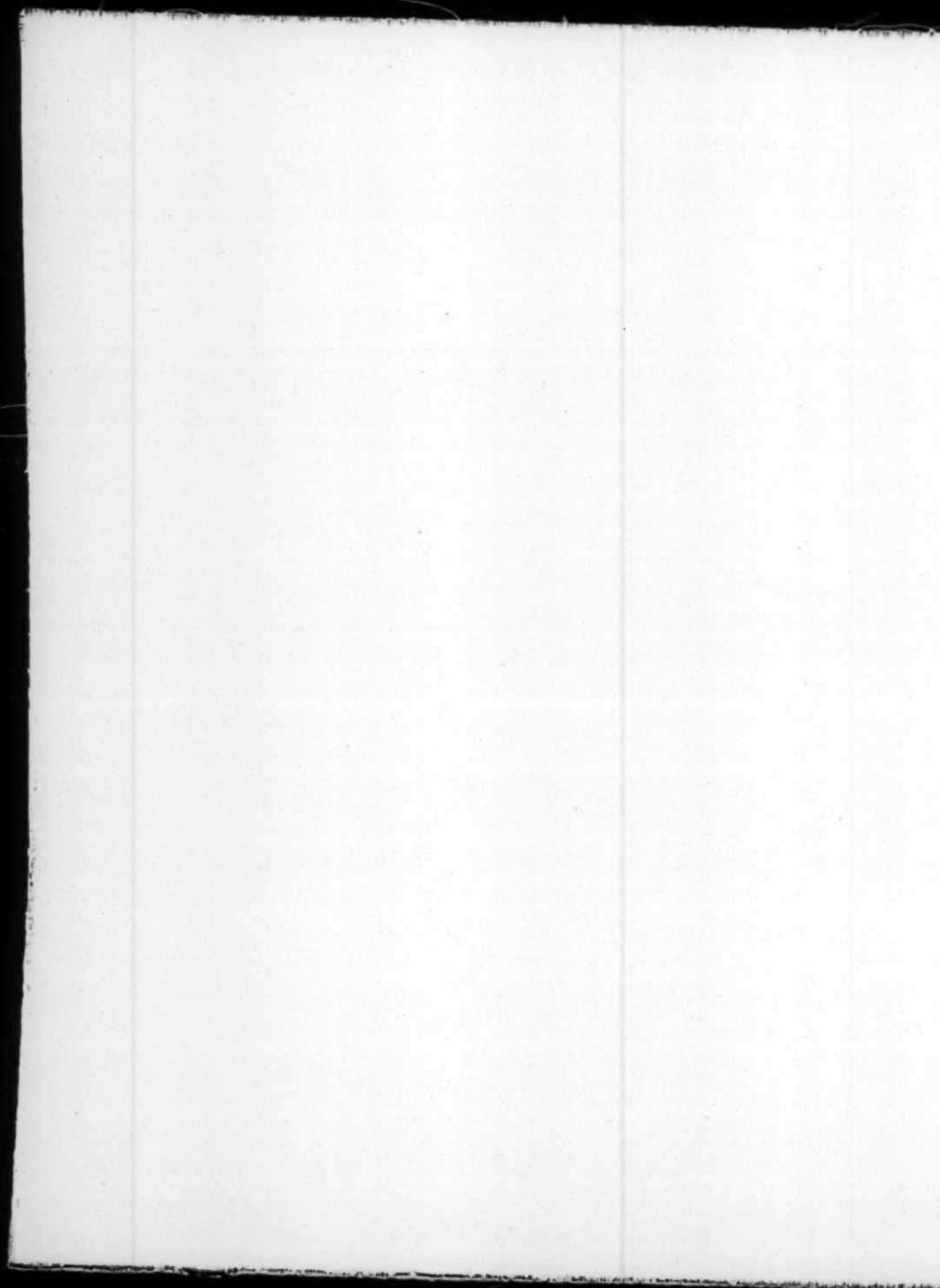
*Clerk.* Call Mr. *Neighborhood*.

*Cr.* O yes, *Neighborhood*.

*Iudg.* Come friend what can you say ?

*Neighbor.* May it please you my Lord , I dwell at the Town of *Amity*, in the County of *Unity*, my Father was the good *Samaritan*, and my Mother was called *Dorcas*, and all that I can say for this Old man is , that he is a very kind and loving man ; inoffensive to all : a hater of strife , a lover of harmles mirth: our whole Town & County are much beholding to him when he comes , for he uses all means to bring us together, & to renew friendship: he is a great Peacemaker, if there have been any difference betwixt party, & party, he will indeavour to end it in an amicable way : he alwayes uses to tell me (next God) I must love my name sake, to glorify the first, & tenderly affect the second: in

*fine*





THE  
Afternoon Tryall  
OF  
Old Father  
CHRISTMAS,

At the Affizes held at the  
Town of *Difference*, in the  
County of *Discontent*.

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Written according to Legal proceeding,  
By *Josiah King*.

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